

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1, 4-11, 14-20, 22, 25 and 32-35 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 9 and 19 are allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Page 2 of the Office Action states “Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Houde et al.”¹ Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to still pending claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 14-18 and 20 as well as claims 22 and 25.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Each element of the claimed invention is not found in Houde. For example, Houde fails to disclose a home fixed telephone network and a visited fixed telephone network, as required by independent claims 1 and 11 and their respective dependents. In marked contrast, Houde explicitly states “The present invention relates to cellular telephone networks...(emphasis added).” (See col. 1, lines 18-19). While the claimed invention is directed to fixed telephone networks, Houde is directed to a cellular telephone network (a non-fixed telephone network). It should also now be clear that “fixed terminations” referred to in the claims are fixed telephones in a fixed telephone network such as a PSTN, and not mobile telephones in a mobile cellular network as described in Houde.

¹ (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,678, hereinafter “Houde”).

Moreover, Houde fails to disclose “receiving a selection by the user of the fixed termination from a plurality of terminations located in the visited fixed telephone network,” as required by independent claim 1. Similar comments apply to independent claim 11. In contrast, a user in Houde’s system cannot select the routing of a call to a fixed termination of his/her choice. In Houde, the routing is limited to the mobile telephone that the user has taken with him/her to the foreign network.

Claim 1 further states that a communication is initiated “with a visitor node from a fixed termination, wherein said visitor node and said fixed termination are located in the visited fixed telephone network.” Similar comments apply to independent claim 11. In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, a user can therefore pick up a telephone attached to the visited fixed network to initiate a communication and start a registration process.

The user is thus free to select a telephone number of a telephone that he/she wishes to have calls forwarded. This feature is specifically defined in claim 1 via “receiving a selection by the user of the fixed termination from a plurality of fixed terminations...” and “supplying the visitor node with the identity of the user-selected fixed termination...” as required by independent claim 1. The telephone to which calls are forwarded may be the same telephone as the one used to initiate the communication or may be any other telephone in the visited fixed telephone network. Registration of the user with the visited fixed telephone network continues with the visitor node registering itself as a proxy node (see the last step set forth in claim 1 stating “registering the visitor node as a proxy with the home node using the first identification number....”).

In contrast, Houde merely relates to registering a mobile station in a foreign cellular network so that a call made to the home directory number of the roaming network can be routed to the foreign network and connected to the mobile terminal in the foreign network.

When a user is in a foreign cellular network and does not have his/her mobile phone with them he/she is not able to get calls forwarded to him/her from his/her home network. This problem is solved by exemplary embodiments of the present invention which enable the user to select a fixed termination from a plurality of fixed terminations located in a visited fixed telephone network. The user thus does not need to bring any terminal equipment to the region operated by the visited fixed telephone network (see, e.g., dependent claims 22 and 25) to have calls successfully forwarded. The user supplies the details of the selected fixed termination from the plurality of possible fixed terminations of the visited fixed telephone network so that future calls can be routed by the home node to the user-selected fixed termination.

Houde fails to even identify such a problem, let alone provide any solution to such a problem, as the teachings of Houde are fundamentally different to that of the present invention. Houde relates to a cellular mobile network where a user always connects to a network using his/her own mobile terminal with its associated subscriber id. This is in marked contrast to the exemplary embodiments of the present invention where the user has to identify a fixed termination from a plurality of possible fixed terminations in a visited fixed telephone network such as a telephone in a PSTN for connection. There is no disclosure of a user selecting a fixed termination of the visited fixed telephone network to which calls can be routed. In Houde, a user is limited to using the mobile

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terminal that he has taken with him/her from the home network to the foreign network, and as such does not require use of any fixed termination located in the visited fixed telephone network.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 14-18 and 20 are not anticipated by Houde and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

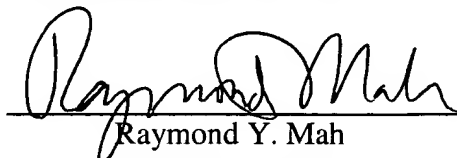
New (dependent) claims 32-35 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Applicant submits that these new claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to their respective base claims.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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